

SN 09/162,768

Page 3 of 24

IN THE CLAIMS

Please consider the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A hardware upgrade operably connected to a set top terminal the hardware upgrade comprising:

an interface to the set top terminal through which a subscriber selection and digital audio signals that represent audio programs are received from the set top terminal, wherein the set top terminal comprises a first tuner coupled to a receiver that receives television program signals, ~~a first tuner capable of selecting a digital audio signal~~, and the digital audio signals from a television program delivery system;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a second tuner that tunes to a selected audio program in the received digital audio signals based on the received subscriber selection; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber selection.

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

Claim 3. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the audio signals are digital audio signals and the audio processing circuitry comprises a demodulator.

Claim 4. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the audio signals are digital audio signals and the audio processing circuitry comprises digital audio processing circuitry.

Claim 5. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 4 wherein the digital audio processing circuitry comprises a demultiplexor to select the selected audio signal.

Claim 6. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 4 wherein the digital audio signals are encrypted and the digital audio processing circuitry comprises a decryptor.

SN.09/162,768
Page 4 of 24

Claim 7. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 4 wherein the digital audio signals are compressed and the digital audio processing circuitry comprises a decompressor.

Claim 8. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the output is one or more connectors to one or more speakers.

Claim 9. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the output is one or more connectors to a stereo.

Claim 10. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 further comprising a microprocessor connected to the interface and processing circuitry, the microprocessor accepting the subscriber selections and controlling the audio processing circuitry.

Claim 11. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 further comprising a remote control unit, the remote control unit comprising inputs for entering the subscriber selections.

Claim 12. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 11 wherein the remote control unit comprises a display.

Claim 13. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 12 wherein the display comprises a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

Claim 14. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 12 wherein the display comprises an LED device.

Claim 15. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 12 wherein the display comprises an LCD device.

Claim 16. (Canceled)

SN 09/162,768

Page 5 of 24

Claim 17. (Canceled)

Claim 18. (Canceled)

Claim 19. (Canceled)

Claim 20. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 further comprising a menu generator, whereby the subscriber selections comprise menu selections from one or more menus generated by the menu generator.

Claim 21. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 further comprising a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

Claim 22. (Original) The hardware upgrade of claim 1 wherein the selected audio signals is a stereo signal comprising left and right components.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) A set top terminal comprising:

- a first tuner coupled to a receiver adapted to receive television program signals and digital audio signals from a television program delivery system, wherein the digital audio signals represent audio programs;

- a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection;

- ~~a first tuner capable of selecting a digital audio signal;~~ and

- a first hardware upgrade operably connected to the set top terminal, comprising:

- an interface to the set top terminal through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the set top terminal;

- an audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a

SN 09/162,768
Page 6 of 24

second tuner that tunes to a selected audio program in the received digital audio signals based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and
an output, connected to the audio processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

Claim 24. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 wherein the terminal is capable of receiving audio/visual programs in addition to the audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented by only an audio signal.

Claim 25. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 further comprising a remote control unit, the remote control unit comprising inputs for entering the subscriber selections.

Claim 26. (Original) The terminal of claim 25 wherein the remote control unit comprises a display.

Claim 27. (Original) The terminal of claim 26 wherein the display comprises a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

Claim 28. (Original) The terminal of claim 26 wherein the display comprises an LED device.

Claim 29. (Original) The terminal of claim 26 wherein the display comprises an LCD device.

Claim 30. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 further comprising a menu generator, whereby the subscriber selections comprise menu selections from one or more menus generated by the menu generator.

SN 09/162,768

Page 7 of 24

Claim 31. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 wherein the terminal has an expansion card slot, and the interface comprises at least one card connector adapted for use with the expansion card slot.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 23 further comprising a display that indicates when the first hardware upgrade is in use.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 23 wherein the first hardware upgrade is remotely located from the terminal.

Claim 34. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 further comprising a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

Claim 35. (Original) The terminal of claim 23 wherein the receiver is further adapted to receive one or more data signals containing information about the audio programs.

Claim 36. (Cancelled)

Claim 37. (Currently Amended) A system for delivery and reception of audio programs, the system comprising:

- a television program delivery system adapted to deliver television program signals and digital audio signals, wherein the digital audio signals represent the audio programs; and

- a set top terminal operably connected to the television program delivery system, the set top terminal comprising:

- a first tuner coupled to a receiver adapted to receive the television program signals and the digital audio signals from the television program delivery system;

- a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection;

- ~~a first tuner capable of selecting a digital audio signal; and~~

SN 09/162,768

Page 8 of 24

a hardware upgrade operably connected to the set top terminal,
comprising:

an interface to the set top terminal through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the set top terminal;

an audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a second tuner that tunes to a selected audio program in the received digital audio signals based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

an output, connected to the audio processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

Claim 38. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the television program delivery system is a cable television program delivery system.

Claim 39. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the cable television program delivery system further comprises an operations center, the operations center transmitting one or more of the programs to the terminal.

Claim 40. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the cable television program delivery system further comprises one or more headends, a particular one of the one or more headends transmitting one or more of the programs to the terminal.

Claim 41. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the television program delivery system is a direct satellite broadcast system.

Claim 42. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the television program delivery system comprises one or more fiber optic connections to the terminal.

SN 09/162,768

Page 9 of 24

Claim 43. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the television program delivery system comprises one or more telephone line connections to the terminal.

Claim 44. (Cancelled)

Claims 45-61. (Cancelled)

Claim 62. (Currently amended) An apparatus capable of receiving audio/visual programs and audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented by a digital audio signal only, the apparatus comprising:

- a first tuner coupled to a receiver adapted to receive the audio/visual programs and the audio programs from a television program delivery system;

- ~~a first tuner capable of selecting a digital audio signal;~~

- a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection; and

- a hardware upgrade operably connected to a set top terminal, comprising:

- an interface to the set top terminal through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the set top terminal;

- an audio processing circuitry, connected to the receiver, that processes the digital audio signals representing the audio programs, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a second tuner that tunes to a selected audio program based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

- an output, connected to the audio processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

Claim 63. (Cancelled)

Claim 64. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a demodulator.

SN 09/162,768

Page 10 of 24

Claim 65. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a demultiplexor to select the selected audio signal.

Claim 66. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the digital audio signals are encrypted and the audio processing circuitry comprises a decryptor.

Claim 67. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the digital audio signals are compressed and the audio processing circuitry comprises a decompressor.

Claim 68. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the output is one or more connectors to one or more speakers.

Claim 69. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the output is one or more connectors to a stereo.

Claim 70. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 further comprising a microprocessor connected to the subscriber interface and processing circuitry.

Claim 71. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 further comprising a remote control unit, the remote control unit comprising inputs for entering the subscriber selections.

Claim 72. (Original) The apparatus of claim 71 wherein the remote control unit comprises a display.

Claim 73. (Original) The apparatus of claim 72 wherein the display comprises a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

Claim 74. (Original) The apparatus of claim 72 wherein the display comprises an LED device.

SN 09/162,768

Page 11 of 24

Claim 75. (Original) The apparatus of claim 72 wherein the display comprises an LCD device.

Claim 76. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 further comprising a menu generator, whereby the subscriber selections comprise menu selections from one or more menus generated by the menu generator.

Claim 77. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the receiver is further adapted to receive one or more data signals that contain information about the audio programs.

Claim 78. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the selected audio signal is a stereo signal comprising left and right components.

Claim 79. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the apparatus is a set top terminal.

Claim 80. (Currently Amended) An apparatus capable of receiving audio/visual programs and audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented by a digital audio signal only, the apparatus comprising:

means for tuning to and receiving the audio/visual programs and the audio programs from a television program delivery system;

~~a first means for tuning to a selected audio program;~~

means for receiving subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection;

means, connected to the means for receiving the audio/visual programs and the audio programs, for processing the digital audio signals representing the audio programs, wherein the means for processing comprises a second means for tuning to a selected audio program; and

means, connected to the means for processing, for outputting a selected audio

SN 09/162,768
Page 12 of 24

signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

Claim 81. (Cancelled)

Claim 82. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the means for processing comprises means for demodulating.

Claim 83. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the means for processing comprises means for demultiplexing the audio signals to select the selected audio signal.

Claim 84. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the digital audio signals are encrypted and the means for processing comprises means for decrypting.

Claim 85. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the digital audio signals are compressed and the means for processing comprises means for decompressing.

Claim 86. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the means for outputting a selected audio signal comprises means for connecting to one or more speakers.

Claim 87. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the means for outputting a selected audio signal comprises means for connecting to a stereo.

Claim 88. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising means, connected to the means for processing, for controlling the means for processing.

Claim 89. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising means for remotely controlling the apparatus, the means for remotely controlling comprising means for entering the subscriber selections.

SN 09/162,768
Page 13 of 24

Claim 90. (Original) The apparatus of claim 89 wherein the means for remotely controlling comprises means for displaying.

Claim 91. (Original) The apparatus of claim 90 wherein the means for displaying comprises means for displaying a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

Claim 92. (Original) The apparatus of claim 90 wherein the means for displaying comprises an LED device.

Claim 93. (Original) The apparatus of claim 90 wherein the means for displaying comprises an LCD device.

Claim 94. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising means for generating menus, whereby the subscriber selections comprise menu selections from one or more menus generated by the means for generating menus.

Claim 95. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising means for receiving a data signal that identifies the audio programs.

Claim 96. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the selected audio signal is a stereo signal comprising left and right components.

Claim 97. (Original) The apparatus of claim 80 wherein the apparatus is a set top terminal.

Claim 98. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 23 further comprising:
one or more additional hardware upgrades connected to the terminal.

Claim 99. (Cancelled)

SN 09/162,768
Page 14 of 24

Claim 100. (Canceled)

Claim 101. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 98 wherein the first hardware upgrade and the one or more additional hardware upgrades are capable of operating simultaneously.

Claim 102. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 98 wherein at least one of the one or more additional hardware upgrades is an audio program reception hardware upgrade.

Claim 103. (Previously Presented) The terminal of claim 98 wherein at least one of the one or more additional hardware upgrades is an interactive hardware upgrade that receives interactive subscriber input and produces interactive output.

Claim 104. (Currently Amended) A cable television set top terminal comprising:

- a first tuner coupled to a receiver that receives television program signals and digital audio signals from a television program delivery system;

- ~~a first tuner capable of selecting a digital audio signal;~~

- a first hardware upgrade connected to the set top terminal, wherein the first hardware upgrade is capable of receiving the digital audio signals and subscriber audio program selections from the set top terminal, wherein the first hardware upgrade further comprises:

- audio processing circuitry, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a second tuner that tunes to a selected digital audio signal; and
 - one or more additional hardware upgrades connected to the set top terminal.

Claim 105. (Cancelled)

Claim 106. (Canceled)

SN 09/162,768
Page 15 of 24

Claim 107. (Previously Presented) The cable television set top terminal of claim 104 wherein the first hardware upgrade and the one or more additional hardware upgrades are capable of operating simultaneously.

Claim 108. (Previously Presented) The cable television set top terminal of claim 104 wherein at least one of the first hardware upgrade or the one or more additional hardware upgrades is an audio program reception hardware upgrade.

Claim 109. (Previously Presented) The cable television set top terminal of claim 104 wherein at least one of the first hardware upgrade or the one or more additional hardware upgrades is an interactive hardware upgrade that receives interactive subscriber input and produces interactive output.

Claim 110. (Currently Amended) A system for delivery and reception of audio programs, the system comprising:

- a television program delivery system adapted to deliver television program signals, including HDTV audio visual signals, and digital audio signals, wherein the digital audio signals represent the audio programs; and

- a set top terminal operably connected to the television program delivery system, the set top terminal comprising:

- a first tuner coupled to a receiver adapted to receive the television program signals and the digital audio signals from the television program delivery system;

- ~~a first tuner capable of selecting a digital audio signal;~~

- a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection; and

- a hardware upgrade operably connected to the set top terminal, comprising:

- an interface to the set top terminal through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the set top terminal;

SN 09/162,768

Page 16 of 24

an audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a second tuner that tunes to a selected audio program in the received digital audio signals based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

an output, connected to the audio processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

Claim 111. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 110 wherein the television program delivery system is a cable television program delivery system.

Claim 112. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 110 wherein the cable television program delivery system further comprises an operations center, the operations center transmitting one or more of the programs to the terminal.

Claim 113. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 110 wherein the cable television program delivery system further comprises one or more headends, a particular one of the one or more headends transmitting one or more of the programs to the terminal.

Claim 114. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 110 wherein the television program delivery system is a direct satellite broadcast system.

Claim 115. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 110 wherein the television program delivery system comprises one or more fiber optic connections to the terminal.

Claim 116. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 110 wherein the television program delivery system comprises one or more telephone line connections to the terminal.

Claim 117. (Cancelled)

SN 09/162,768
Page 17 of 24

Claim 118. (Previously Presented) An apparatus capable of receiving audio/visual programs, including HDTV programs, and audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented by a digital audio signal only, the apparatus comprising:

- a first tuner coupled to a receiver adapted to receive the audio/visual programs and the audio programs from a television program delivery system;

- ~~a first tuner capable of selecting a digital audio signal;~~

- a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection; and

- a hardware upgrade operably connected to the apparatus, comprising:

- an interface to the apparatus through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the apparatus;

- an audio processing circuitry, connected to the receiver, that processes the digital audio signals representing the audio programs, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a second tuner that tunes to a selected audio program based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

- an output, connected to the audio processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

Claim 119. (Cancelled)

Claim 120. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a demodulator.

Claim 121. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a demultiplexor to select the selected audio signal.

Claim 122. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the digital audio

SN 09/162,768
Page 18 of 24

signals are encrypted and the audio processing circuitry comprises a decryptor.

Claim 123. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the digital audio signals are compressed and the audio processing circuitry comprises a decompressor.

Claim 124. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the output is one or more connectors to one or more speakers.

Claim 125. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the output is one or more connectors to a stereo.

Claim 126. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 further comprising a microprocessor connected to the subscriber interface and processing circuitry.

Claim 127. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 further comprising a remote control unit, the remote control unit comprising inputs for entering the subscriber selections.

Claim 128. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 further comprising a display.

Claim 129. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 128 wherein the display comprises a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

Claim 130. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 128 wherein the display comprises an LED device.

Claim 131. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 128 wherein the display comprises an LCD device.

SN 09/162,768

Page 19 of 24

Claim 132. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 further comprising a menu generator, whereby the subscriber selections comprise menu selections from one or more menus generated by the menu generator.

Claim 133. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the receiver is further adapted to receive one or more data signals that contain information about the audio programs.

Claim 134. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the selected audio signal is a stereo signal comprising left and right components.

Claim 135. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118 wherein the apparatus is a set top terminal.

Claim 136. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 62 further comprising:
a display.

Claim 137. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 136 wherein the display comprises a channel identifier display that displays a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

Claim 138. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 136 wherein the display comprises an LED device.

Claim 139. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 136 wherein the display comprises an LCD device.

Claim 140. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 80 further comprising:
means for displaying.

Claim 141. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 140 wherein the means for

SN 09/162,768

Page 20 of 24

displaying comprises means for displaying a channel identifier corresponding to a subscriber selection.

Claim 142. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 140 wherein the means for displaying comprises an LED device.

Claim 143. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 140 wherein the means for displaying comprises an LCD device.

Claim 144. (Currently amended) A hardware upgrade for a set top terminal comprising a first tuner coupled to a receiver for receiving capable of selecting a digital audio signal, the hardware upgrade remotely located from the set top terminal, the hardware upgrade comprising:

an interface to the set top terminal through which a subscriber selection and digital audio signals that represent audio programs are received from the set top terminal, wherein the digital audio signals are received from a television program delivery system, wherein the television program delivery system is capable of simultaneously transmitting video signals that are unrelated to the digital audio signals; audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the processing circuitry comprises a second tuner capable of selecting an audio program and allows access to the digital audio signals while the unrelated video signals are viewed on a television; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal based on the subscriber selection.

Claim 145. (Previously Presented) The hardware upgrade of claim 144 further comprising a remote control unit, the remote control unit comprising inputs for entering the subscriber selection.